

Stroke

A serious life-threatening medical condition that happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut-off. A stroke is a medical emergency and urgent treatment is essential.



Introduction

Stroke strikes suddenly and can result in a devastating range of disabilities or death, having a profound impact on individuals and their families. A stroke unit is where you should be sent to within four hours of hospital admission for your initial care. The sooner a person receives treatment for a stroke, the better the chance of recovery.

In Hywel Dda Health Board there are currently stroke units at all four hospitals: Bronglais, Glangwili, Prince Philip and Withybush. At present our stroke services do not meet clinical standards. We do not have 24-hour, seven-day specialist cover, we do not have enough staff to support this, and we do not have a community rehabilitation service that meets the standards for Integrated Community Stroke Services. This leads to outcomes that are not as good as they could be, and this is why we need to change the way stroke services are delivered so they are safe, sustainable, accessible and kind for patients and staff.

Evidence shows that outcomes and standards are better if services are brought together and delivered from fewer hospitals if they cannot be delivered safely and sustainably across several sites. Bringing services together would also help with hiring and keeping staff, making the service more sustainable.

What is the preferred option?

The new preferred option has been developed by bringing together elements of two alternative ideas proposed by our communities during the first phase of consultation (Option 106 and Option 210).

At a glance	Bronglais	Glangwili	Prince Philip	Withybush
Current Service	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit
Preferred Option	Treat and Transfer Stroke rehabilitation unit	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 24 hours, 7 days a week) Working regionally as part of the National Stroke Programme in the longer term	Treat and Transfer	Treat and Transfer

How the preferred option would work

Under this option, patients with a suspected stroke would still receive emergency stroke assessment and initial treatment as quickly as possible, usually at their nearest hospital site. This may include a CT scan and Thrombolysis (a clot busting treatment) where clinically suitable, following initial scans and assessment.

If, after the initial assessments, a patient needs further stroke specialist care, they would be transferred to the 24-hour Acute Stroke Unit at Glangwili or to another specialist stroke centre, such as the thrombectomy centres at Cardiff or Bristol, according to their needs.

Glangwili would provide 24-hour specialist stroke cover seven days a week and rehabilitation to treat patients during their hyper acute phase (which typically covers the first 72 hours) and acute phase (typically between three to ten days).

After this time, some patients would be well enough to return home, with the support of the Integrated Community Stroke Services. For patients who still need further specialist stroke treatment and support in hospital, this would take place at Glangwili for patients living in the south of our Health Board area or at Bronglais for patients from Ceredigion and the surrounding areas.

There would be no change to how people first access care and assessment and in this model all patients would still go to their nearest hospital, just as they do now.

Previous options on stroke considered by Hywel Dda University Health Board

There were two options that we originally consulted on, as part of our Clinical Services Plan, these were **Option A** and **Option B**.

Two alternative options, suggested by our communities, met hurdle criteria and were considered by Board, **Option 106** and **Option 210**.

At a glance	Bronglais	Glangwili	Prince Philip	Withybush
Current Service	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit	Stroke Unit
Option A	Treat and Transfer	Treat and Transfer	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)
Option B	Treat and Transfer	Treat and Transfer	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 24-hours a day)	Treat and Transfer and Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)
Option 106	Treat and Transfer Stroke rehabilitation unit	Treat and Transfer	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)
Option 210	Treat and Transfer and Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day)	Stroke Unit (specialist cover 24-hours a day) Then Create regional Stroke centre in Morryston Hospital Treat and Transfer	Treat and Transfer	Treat and Transfer

Option A included Treat and Transfer units in Bronglais and Glangwili hospitals, and Stroke Units (specialist cover 12-hours a day) in Prince Philip and Withybush hospitals.

Option B included Treat and Transfer units in Bronglais and Glangwili hospitals, a Stroke Unit (specialist cover 24-hours a day) in Prince Philip Hospital and a Treat and Transfer and Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day) in Withybush Hospital. In this option patients at Withybush hospital would be transferred to Prince Philip hospital for their initial care before returning to Withybush hospital for further care and stroke rehabilitation.

In both options, Bronglais and Glangwili hospitals would become Treat and Transfer hospitals for stroke.

Option 106 was based on Option A and included Treat and Transfer units in Bronglais and Glangwili hospitals, and Stroke Units (specialist cover 12-hours a day) in Prince Philip and Withybush hospitals.

In this option patients at Bronglais Hospital would be transferred to Prince Philip Hospital for their initial care before returning to Bronglais Hospital for further stroke rehabilitation.

Option 210 was based on Option B but using different sites. It included Treat and Transfer units in Prince Philip and Withybush hospitals, a Stroke Unit (specialist cover 24-hours a day) in Glangwili Hospital and a Treat and Transfer and Stroke Unit (specialist cover 12-hours a day) in Bronglais Hospital. Patients at Bronglais Hospital would be transferred to Glangwili Hospital for their initial care before returning to Bronglais Hospital for further care and stroke rehabilitation.